

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method of downloading web-based data, comprising:
providing a printer incorporating a web server, said web server linked to a network;
5 initiating a data download request to said web server by specifying a network
address associated with said data;
communicating at least one data download command for said data from said web
server to a responsive server supporting said network address;
downloading said data specified by said network address via said responsive server;
10 transmitting said downloaded data from said responsive server to said web server;
receiving said downloaded data by said web server; and
storing said downloaded data in memory of said printer.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein initiating a data download request
15 comprises sending a URL to said web server.
3. The method of claim 2, wherein said URL is sent over said network by
an SMTP client of a web-based device.
- 20 4. The method of claim 3, wherein initiating a data download request
comprises specifying data download scheduling instructions to said web server via
said SMTP client, and wherein initiating a data download request comprises initiating
said data download request pursuant to said data download scheduling instructions.
- 25 5. The method of claim 4, wherein specifying data download scheduling
instructions comprises scheduling said data downloads to occur at a plurality of
regular intervals.
6. The method of claim 4, wherein specifying data download scheduling
30 instructions comprises scheduling said initiating a data download request at times of
nonpeak internet activity.
7. The method of claim 3, wherein said SMTP client comprises
conventional e-mail software.
- 35 8. The method of claim 3, wherein said web-based device is selected
from the group consisting of computer workstations, phones, and personal display
assistants.

9. The method of claim 1, wherein initiating a data download request comprises accessing a data entry form on a web page displayed by said web server with a web browser of a web-based device.

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10. The method of claim 9, wherein said data entry form comprises a CGI script containing a plurality of open data fields for entering one or more data download parameters.

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11. The method of claim 10, wherein said data download parameters include scheduling parameters for said initiating a data download request, and wherein initiating a data download request comprises specifying data download scheduling instructions into at least one of said plurality of open data fields. .

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12. The method of claim 11, wherein initiating a data download request comprises said web server interpreting said data download scheduling instructions and initiating said data download pursuant to said instructions.

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13. The method of claim 1, further comprising providing a web page generated by said web server, said web page displaying the status of said receiving and said storing of said downloaded data and providing user interface printing options for printing said downloaded data.

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14. The method of claim 1, wherein said network comprises the world wide web.

15. The method of claim 1, wherein said network comprises an intranet.

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16. The method of claim 1, wherein initiating a data download request comprises initiating a data download request from a remotely located web-based device.

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17. A system for downloading web-based data, comprising:
a web server embedded on a printer;

said web server configured for display of at least one web page, said at least one web page associated with operative functions of said printer;
said web server adapted to be linked to a network;

said web server configured to receive and process data download requests from a web-based device, said data download requests for data associated with at least one remotely located data server;

5 said web server configured to send download commands to said at least one remotely located data server;

 said web server configured to receive downloaded data transmitted by said at least one remotely located data server and to store said data in printer memory; and

10 a web-based device adapted to send data download requests to said web server for data associated with said at least one remotely located data server.

18. The system of claim 17, wherein said web-based device is adapted send said data download requests to said web server via an SMTP client.

19. The system of claim 17, wherein said web-based device is adapted send said data download requests to said web server via a web browser.

20. A method of scheduling downloads of web-based data to printer memory, comprising:

 providing a printer having an embedded web server linked to a network;

 scheduling a data download request via an SMTP client of a web-based device by specifying to said embedded web server at least one network address associated with said data and scheduling instructions for initiating said data download request;

 initiating said data download request by following said scheduling instructions;

 communicating at least one data download command for said data from said web server to a data server supporting said network address;

 downloading said data specified by said network address via said responsive server;

30 transmitting said downloaded data from said responsive server to said web server;

 receiving said downloaded data by said web server; and

 storing said downloaded data in memory of said printer.